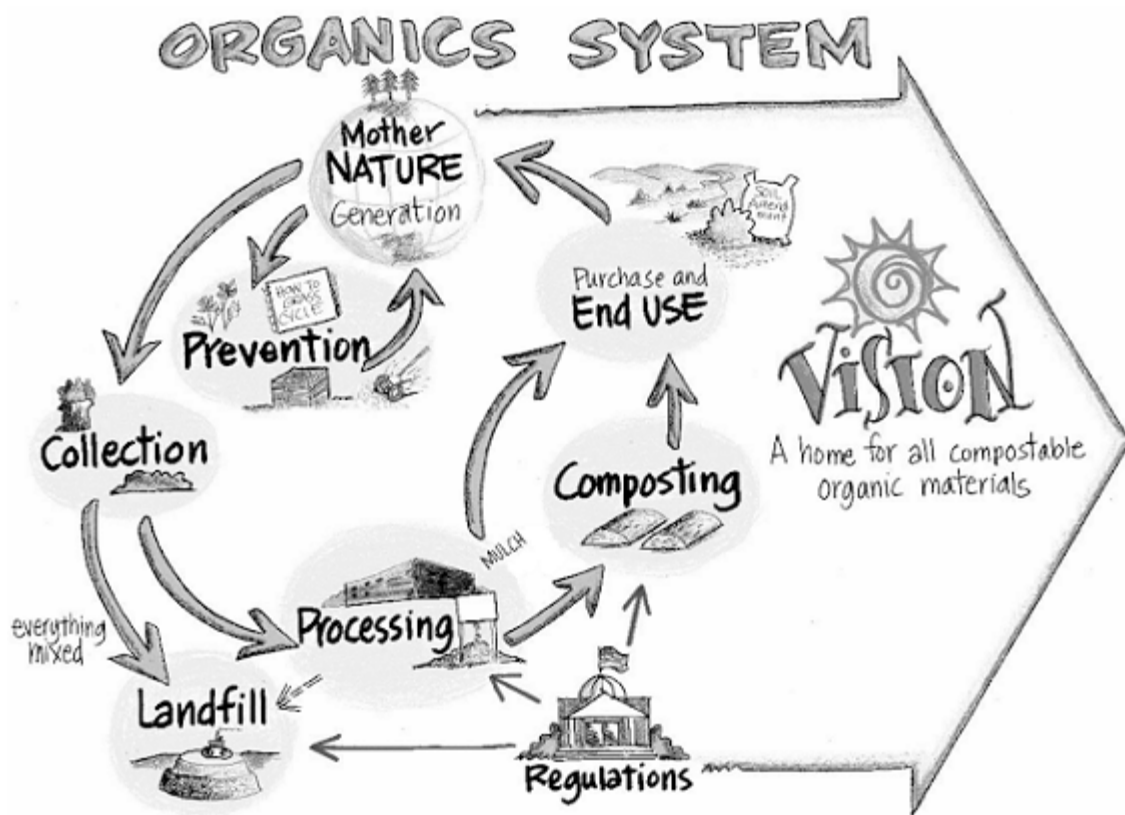


Growing Options for Managing California's Organic Materials

Agriculture • Erosion Control • Food Scraps
Landscapers • Grasscycling • Resources



Working Together to Make This Vision a Reality

Working With Growers: Agriculture Benefits from Compost and Mulch

An increasing number of growers are embracing sustainable agriculture, which involves practices that support natural resources and biodiversity, while still being economically viable. In addition to practices such as beneficial insects and cover crops, growers are finding that compost and mulch can be important components of a sustainable farming system.



Benefits of Compost and Mulch

Growers cite the following reasons for using compost:

- ♦ Increases soil organic matter (feeds soil microorganisms, and increases water and nutrient holding capacity).
- ♦ Suppresses plant pathogens.
- ♦ Reduces erosion.
- ♦ Provides an alternative to the use of raw manures that may introduce pathogens, such as E. coli.

Encouraging Results from Demonstration Projects

To demonstrate the benefits of compost and mulch, the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) has sponsored several demonstration projects with encouraging results, including:

- ♦ Suppression of Phytophthora root rot in avocados using municipal mulch.
- ♦ Significant improvement in soil quality and moisture holding capacity in mulched orchards.
- ♦ Successful growth of nursery stock in compost-enriched potting soils.

The results of these and other studies, along with additional information of interest to growers are available on the Farming Outlook Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/Farming/. If you'd like more information, please call us at (916) 255-2708.



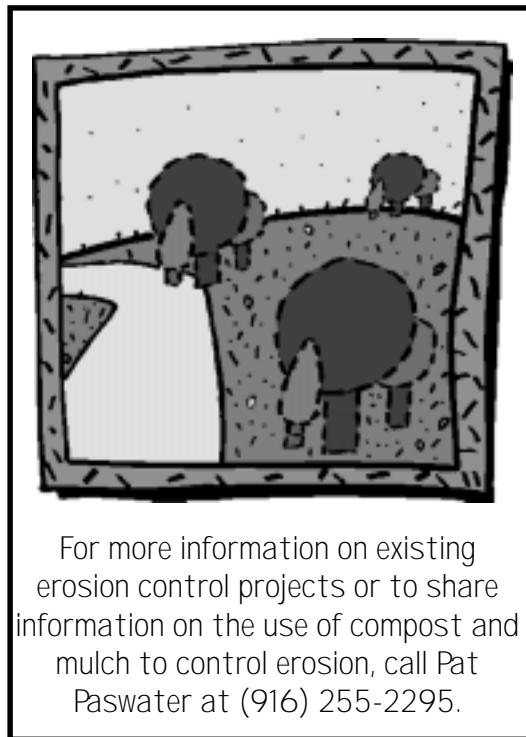
CIWMB is a proud sponsor of the California Heartland public broadcasting television show

Erosion Control: Don't Lose Ground

Yes, You Can Use Compost and Mulch To Control Soil Erosion

The CIWMB has sponsored several projects that demonstrate the benefits of using compost and mulch for erosion control. These projects involve regional partnerships with end-users and government agencies to conduct research, field days, and demonstrations. They include:

- ♦ **Caltrans project on controlling erosion on highway rights-of-way.** In progress now, this project will provide specifications and demonstrate the value of using compost and mulch as erosion control materials. An interim report is available at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/.
- ♦ **Ventura County Resource Conservation District project on controlling erosion in citrus orchards.** The final report and a guidance pamphlet are available at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/.
- ♦ **Hillside vineyard erosion control projects in Napa and Sonoma Counties** using locally generated yard waste. To learn about these ongoing projects, visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/GreenTeam/Target5/.



For more information on existing erosion control projects or to share information on the use of compost and mulch to control erosion, call Pat Paswater at (916) 255-2295.



Attention Procurement Officers!

Do you need help in writing specifications to purchase compost and mulch? See the new fact sheet on "Guidelines for Writing Compost or Mulch Procurement Specifications" now available from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. This four-page publication details the elements that should be included in a procurement specification.

June, 2000 CIWMB Publication # 443-00-008.
www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/.

Food Scraps: A Resource Not to Waste

Food Should Not Be In The Landfill, Whether It's Edible or Spoiled

Did you know...?

- ♦ California dumps 16 percent of its food? That's nearly 5.6 million tons of organic material that can be donated to food banks or composted for use as a soil amendment.
- ♦ Edible food can be donated to food banks and food rescue programs. A new federal law, the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, helps protect donors from liability.
- ♦ Commercial and residential food can be composted on site or at permitted composting facilities.



The CIWMB recently awarded \$150,000 to local jurisdictions and school districts for high-volume food diversion projects:

- ♦ City of Indian Wells
- ♦ Davis Unified School District
- ♦ City of San Francisco/San Francisco Unified School District
- ♦ City of Santa Cruz
- ♦ West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority

How To Start a Food Diversion Program:

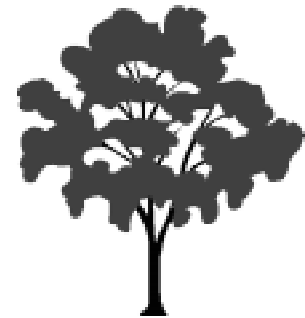
- ♦ Call the California Association of Food Banks at (916) 456-2232, or Foodchain at (800) 845-3008, to find food banks and food rescue programs in your area.
- ♦ Call the CIWMB at (916) 255-3290, for a list of permitted composting facilities in your area that accept food scraps. Learn how local jurisdictions and businesses have started successful food collection and diversion programs.

If you have questions about food diversion or would like to tell us about programs that you know of, please contact the following individuals: For food banks and food rescue programs, contact Chris Kinsella at (916) 255-2889, ckinsell@ciwmb.ca.gov or visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/FoodWaste/. For food composting technologies and programs, contact Yvette DiCarlo at (916) 255-3290, ydicarlo@ciwmb.ca.gov, or visit the CIWMB's Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/Food/.

Landscaper-Generated Organics

Is Landscaper Generated Organic Material an Issue in Your Community?

Up to 60 percent of organic green waste material coming from California's urban areas is generated by the professional landscape industry. Many local jurisdictions have successfully established curbside green waste collection programs for homeowners. However, recent waste characterization studies have shown that significant volumes of yard trimmings are still flowing into landfills from commercial, public, as well as residential properties.



Start a Landscape Management Outreach Partnership

Funded by the CIWMB, Landscape Management Outreach Partnership Programs are directed towards the professional landscape industry. Regional partnerships with local jurisdictions have been organized to sponsor outreach activities to promote and demonstrate the use of environmentally beneficial on-site landscape management practices that will reduce, reuse or recycle landscape trimmings from urban landscapes.

Existing Regional Partnerships:



North Bay Area
(Contra Costa, Napa and Solano Counties)
Regional Partnership Coordinator: Bart Carr, Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, Phone (925) 299-1522.



Inland Empire
(San Bernardino and Riverside Counties)
Regional Partnership Coordinator: Rex Richardson, Norcal San Bernardino, Inc. Phone (909) 386-8781.



Orange County
Regional Partnership Coordinator: Michelle Blouin, County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department Phone (714) 255-2587.



For more information on developing a Landscape Management Outreach Partnership contact Melvin Ries at (916) 255-2587, mrries@ciwmb.ca.gov, or visit the CIWMB's Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/Landscaping/.

Residential-Generated Organics

Are You Promoting Grasscycling in Your Community?



Grasscycling is the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. Even if your community has a curbside green waste collection program, it is costly to collect this material, and grasscycling can help keep garbage collection rates down.

Grasscycling Partnerships

To reduce the amount of grass clippings going to landfills, the California Integrated Waste Management Board has funded partnerships to develop public outreach campaigns encouraging residents to practice grasscycling. Please feel free to contact these campaign coordinators to learn more about implementing a local grasscycling outreach campaign.

- ♦ **Bay Area.** (Contra Costa, Napa, Solano, Sonoma counties, City of San Jose). Contact: Bart Carr Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, (925) 299-1522.
- ♦ **Inland Empire.** (San Bernardino and Riverside counties). Contact: Susan Patane, Norcal San Bernardino, Inc., (909) 386-8605.
- ♦ **Los Angeles County.** Contact: Joe Haworth, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, (562) 699-7411.
- ♦ **Mojave Desert and Mountain Region.** Contact: John Davis, Mojave Desert and Mountain Integrated Waste Management Authority. (909) 793-3877.
- ♦ **Sacramento County.** Contact: Charlene McGee, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, (916) 874-4883.

Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (Contra Costa, Napa, Solano, Sonoma counties, City of San Jose) and the Sacramento region traded in their polluting gas-powered mowers and purchased at a discount over 2,400 cordless, electric rechargeable, mulching mowers in spring 2000. These new mulching mowers will divert over 360 tons of grass clippings from landfills per year and reduce air emissions by over 22 tons per year.

The CIWMB has grasscycling brochures, videos, and Public Service Announcements available in English and Spanish to assist local jurisdictions in promoting grasscycling. Contact Ken Decio at (916) 255-2625, kdecio@ciwmb.ca.gov, or visit the CIWMB Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/Grasscycling/.

Compost Information on the Internet



Interested in Digging Up Some Good Dirt?

- ♦ Do you have questions about starting a composting facility?
- ♦ Do you want to save time and money in your landscaping business, but aren't sure where to start?
- ♦ Interested in worm composting?

Find the answers to these questions at the California Integrated Waste Management Board's "Organics Outlook" Internet home page...the site that provides easy access to resources and information on recycling organic materials.

What You Will find:

- ♦ A list of compost and mulch producers and suppliers.
- ♦ Cost efficient and labor saving practices for landscaping businesses and homeowners.
- ♦ Grasscycling — what it is and how to make it work for you.
- ♦ How to compost in the office, home, classroom and on the farm.
- ♦ A searchable recycled-content product database.
- ♦ Composting with worms! In the office, at home or in school.
- ♦ There are even instructions on building compost or worm bins.



So whether you own a business or farm, work for a school or local government agency, or just want to be more efficient and environmentally helpful at home, visit "Organics Outlook" and find the answers to your questions.

* www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/ *

NEED HELP FINDING INFORMATION ON.....

The Management of Organic Materials?

Board staff can help answer your questions about:



Grasscycling	Ken Decio	(916) 255-2625
Landscape Management	Mel Ries	(916) 255-2587
Food Discards	Yvette DiCarlo	(916) 255-3290
Composting Regulations	Brian Larimore	(916) 255-2475
Erosion Control	Pat Paswater	(916) 255-2295
Agriculture, Nursery	Ron Lew	(916) 255-2456
Co-Composting	Steve Storelli	(916) 255-2479
Technical Assistance	Pat Jones	(916) 255-2483
Agriculture	Christy Porter Humpert	(916) 255-2410
Procurement	Michael Leao	(916) 255-2564
Biomass	Fernando Berton	(916) 255-2473
General Assistance	Bertie Mora	(916) 255-2708
Supervisor	Kevin Taylor	(916) 255-2470
Supervisor	Howard Levenson	(916) 255-2159

You can also contact us through our Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/.

